

REMARKS

Applicants have considered the outstanding official action. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance as set forth below.

Claims 16, 22, 25-28 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,406,594 (Palmer).

Claims 17-21, 23-24 and 29 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but are stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants have rewritten allowable claims 17-21, 23-24 and 29 as follows:

| <u>Prior Claim</u> | <u>New Claim</u> |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 17 | 31 |
| 18 | 32 |
| 19 | 33 |
| 20 | 34 |
| 21 | 35 |
| 23 | 36 |
| 24 | 37 |
| 29/27 | 38 |
| 29/28 | 39 |

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Claims 16-30 have been canceled. Claims 31-39 are the sole pending claims.

Accordingly, since allowable claims 17-21, 23-24 and 29 have now been rewritten to not be dependent upon a rejected base claim and the remaining claims have been canceled, applicants submit that the art rejection is rendered moot and that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration and formal allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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